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*SNA*  
*9/4/25*


THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
COOPERATIVES

REPORT ON THE APPROVAL HEARINGS OF MS. REGINA AKOTH OMBAM  
FOR APPOINTMENT AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY IN THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT FOR TRADE

	
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 09 APR 2025	DAY: Wednesday
TABLED BY:	Hon. Marianne Kitanyup Vice chairperson
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	A- Shribuko



CLERK'S CHAMBERS

DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

NAIROBI

APRIL, 2025

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALM	Africa Leaders Meeting
BETA	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
COG	Council of Governors
EAC	East Africa Community
HELB	Higher Education Loans Board
KDP	Kenya Devolution Program
KRA	Kenya Revenue Authority
KEPROBA	Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency
MSME	Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises
MTP	Medium Term Plan
ORPP	Office of the Registrar of Political Parties
SAGAS	Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
WTO	World Trade Organization

## LIST OF ANNEXURES

- Annexure 1: Message from H.E the President regarding nomination for appointment
- Annexure 2: Notification and Communication to the House from the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly
- Annexure 3: Advertisement on the approval hearing and submission of memoranda
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## CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

Pursuant to Articles 132 (2) (d), 155 (3) (a), (b) of the Constitution and Section 47 of the Public Service Commission Act as read together with sections 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap.7f), His Excellency the President, through a letter by the Head of the Public Service Reference No. EOP/CAB.26/4A VOL.VI/ (13) dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, forwarded to the Speaker of the National Assembly a notification of presidential action on nomination of **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** for consideration by the National Assembly for appointment as Principal Secretary for State Department for Trade.

On **Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025**, the Speaker of the National Assembly transmitted the Message from H.E. the President to the Members and referred the nominees' name together with her curriculum vitae to the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives for Approval Hearing (Vetting) and report back to the House on or before **22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**.

Consequently, and in accordance with Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011, the Clerk of the National Assembly invited the public to submit memoranda by way of written statements on oath (affidavits) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominees. Submissions of Memoranda were to be received by **3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 by 5.00 pm**.

Further, on **27<sup>th</sup> March 2025**, the Clerk wrote to the nominee notifying her of the date, time and place of the Approval Hearing which was scheduled to be conducted on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**, in the **Committee Room 7, First Floor, Main Parliament Buildings** starting at **10.00 am**.

To fulfil the requirement on personal integrity, the Clerk on **27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024** wrote to the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, the Higher Education Loans Board and the Registrar of Political Parties to ascertain the nominee's integrity and good standing with the said government institutions. The nominee was also required to submit clearance certificates from the said institutions.

By close of the deadline, the Committee had not received any memoranda in support or in contestation of the suitability of **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** for appointment as Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade.

The nominee appeared before the Committee on **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025** and was orally interviewed under oath pursuant to the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval Act, Cap.7F, Public Service Commission Act and the National Assembly Standing Orders.

The Committee observed that the nominee met the integrity threshold; demonstrated knowledge on topical, administrative and technical issues touching on the positions to which she had been nominated; and had the requisite abilities, academic qualifications and professional experience to be approved for appointment as Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade.

The Committee recommends that the House **approves** the appointment of **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** as Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade.

I take this opportunity to thank all the Members of the Committee for their input and valuable contributions during the approval hearings and writing of this report. The Committee also appreciates the Offices of the Speaker and of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the technical support accorded to it during the exercise.

On behalf of the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, and pursuant to Articles 124 (4) (b) and 155 (3) (b) of the Constitution, Section 8 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, section 47 of the Public Service Commission

Act and provisions of Standing Orders 45 and 199, it is now my duty and privilege to table to the House, the Report of the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives on the approval hearing of **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** for appointment as Principal Secretary for Trade in the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry.

**Hon. Bernard Masaka Shinali, MP**  
(Chairperson)  
Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 PREFACE

#### 1.1 Introduction

1. Pursuant to Article 155 (3) (a) (b) of the Constitution and Section 11 of the Public Service Commission Act (Cap.185), as read together with sections 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap.7f), His Excellency the President, through a letter by the Head of the Public Service Reference No. EOP/CAB.26/4A VOL.VI/ (13) dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 forwarded to the Speaker of the National Assembly a notification of presidential action on nomination of **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** for consideration by the National Assembly for appointment as Principal Secretary for State Department for Trade.
2. Article 124(4)(a) of the Constitution provides that when a House of Parliament considers any appointment for which its approval is required under the Constitution or an Act of Parliament, the appointment shall be considered by a Committee of the relevant House.
3. This report details the proceedings of the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives during the approval hearing of **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary for State Department for Trade.

#### 1.2 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

3. The Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is established under Standing Order 216 and is mandated to, among others, **“to vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any other law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 204.**

#### 1.3 Committee Subjects

4. The subject matter of the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is stated in the Second Schedule of the National Assembly Standing Orders and includes, among others;
  - i. trade, including securities exchange, consumer protection;
  - ii. pricing policies, commerce;
  - iii. industrialization including special economic zones;
  - iv. enterprise promotion & development including micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs);
  - v. small and medium enterprises (SMEs);
  - vi. intellectual property;
  - vii. industrial standards;
  - viii. anti-counterfeit policies; and
  - ix. Co-operatives development
5. In line with the assigned subject matter, and in executing this mandate, the Committee oversees the Ministries of Investment, Trade and Industry and Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development and the following State departments:
  1. The State Department for the Cooperatives
  2. The State Department for Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises
  3. The State Department for Trade
  4. The State Department for Industry
  5. The State Department for Investment Promotion

#### 1.4 Committee Membership

6. The Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Co-operatives Labour was constituted by the House on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and comprises of the following Members:

##### **Chairperson**

Hon. Benard Masaka Shinali, MP  
Ikolomani Constituency  
**Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)**

##### **Vice Chairperson**

Hon. Marianne Jebet Kitany, MP  
Aldai Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance (UDA)**

Hon. Robert Githinji Gichimu, MP  
Gichugu Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance (UDA)**

Hon. Dr. Wilberforce Ojiambo Oundo, MP  
Funyula Constituency  
**Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)**

Hon. Dr. Beatrice Kahai Adagala, MP  
Vihiga County  
**Amani National Congress (ANC)**

Hon. Joyce Kamene, MP  
Machakos County  
**Wiper Democratic Movement–Kenya**

Hon. Joshua Mbithi Mutua Mwalyo, MP  
Masinga Constituency  
**Independent Member**

Hon. Anthony Tom Oluoch, MP  
Mathare Constituency  
**Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)**

Hon. Guyo Adhe Wario, MP  
North Horr Constituency  
**KANU**

Hon. Samuel Sakimba Parashina, MP  
Kajiado South  
**Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)**

Hon. Amos Maina Mwago, MP  
Starehe Constituency  
**Jubilee Party**

Hon. Adams Korir Kipsanai, MP  
Keiyo North Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance (UDA)**

Hon. Geoffrey Kariuki Ruku, MP  
Mbeere North Constituency  
**Democratic Party**

Hon. Alfred Kiprono Mutai, MP  
Keiyo North Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance (UDA)**

Hon. Michael Wainaina Wambugu, MP  
Othaya Constituency  
**United Democratic Alliance (UDA)**

### 1.5 Committee Secretariat

7. The Committee Secretariat comprises the following technical staff:

Mr. Abenayo Wasike

**Principal Clerk Assistant I/Head of Secretariat**

Mr. Ellam Omuhinda  
**Clerk Assistant III**

Ms. Evelyn Kerubo  
**Clerk Assistant III**

Ms. Doreen Karani  
**Senior Legal Counsel**

Ms. Pauline Sifuma  
**Hansard Officer**

Ms. Priscilla Wangu  
**Fiscal Analyst III**

Ms. Priscilla Saidi  
**Research Officer III**

Mr. Mumin Arkan  
**Research Officer III**

Ms. Florence Wanja  
**Protocol Officer**

Mr. Daniel Psirmoi  
**Media Relations Officer III**

Ms. Peris Kaburi  
**Serjeant At Arms**

Mr. Cosmas Akhonya  
**Audio Officer**

Carolyn Musyoka  
**Hansard Reporter II (M&E)**

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Legal Framework

7. The office of Principal Secretary is an office in Public Service established pursuant to the provisions of Article 155 of the Constitution.
8. *Under Article 155 on Principal Secretaries;*
  - (1) *There is established the office of Principal Secretary, which is an Office in the Public Service*
  - (2) *Each State Department shall be under the administration of a Principal Secretary*
  - (3) *The President shall-*
    - (a) *Nominate a person for appointment as Principal Secretary from among persons recommended by the Public Service Commission; and*
    - (b) *With the approval of the National Assembly, appoint Principal Secretaries.*
  - (4) *The President may re-assign a Principal Secretary.*
  - (5) *A Principal Secretary may resign from office by giving notice, in writing, to the President.*
9. The Constitution therefore requires the National Assembly to conduct the vetting/approval hearings in the manner prescribed by the Constitution, the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, Cap. 7F and Standing Orders of the National Assembly.
10. While conducting the approval hearing, the Committee was guided by the following statutes and articles of the constitution of Kenya-
  - i) Article 10 of the Constitution on the national values and principles of governance;
  - ii) Chapter 6 of the Constitution on leadership and integrity;
  - iii) Article 77 of the Constitution on restriction on activities of State Officers;
  - iv) Article 78 of the Constitution on dual citizenship;
  - v) Article 118 of the Constitution on public participation;
  - vi) Article 155 of the Constitution on Principal Secretaries; and
  - vii) The Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Act, Cap. 7F.

#### **The Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap. 7F.**

11. Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011), provides for issues which the relevant House of Parliament (in this case, the National Assembly) is supposed to consider in relation to any nomination. These issues include:
  - i) *the procedure used to arrive at the nominee;*
  - ii) *any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and*
  - iii) *the suitability of the nominee for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the nominee's abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the body to which nomination is being made.*
12. Section 6 (7) to (10) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (No. 33 of 2011) provides as follows-

- i) *An approval hearing shall focus on a candidate's academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background;*
- ii) *The criteria specified in the Schedule shall be used by a Committee during an approval hearing for the purposes of vetting a candidate*
- iii) *Any person may, prior to the approval hearing, and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated; and*
- iv) *A candidate may, at any time, by notice in writing addressed to the Clerk, withdraw from the approval process and the candidate's nomination shall end.*

#### **Article 10(2) of the Constitution on national values and principles of governance**

13. Article 10(2) of the Constitution provides for the national values and principles of governance which include patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people; human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized; good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability; and sustainable development.

#### **Chapter 6 of the Constitution (Leadership and Integrity)**

14. There are important provisions in Chapter 6 of the Constitution worth pointing out. Article 73 of the Constitution provides that the authority assigned to a State officer (a member of a commission to which chapter fifteen applies being a state officer under Article 260 of the Constitution) *"is a public trust to be exercised in accordance to the Constitution, demonstrate respect for the people, bring honour to the nation and dignity to the office and promote public confidence in the integrity of the office. Also, the State officer shall have the responsibility to serve the people, rather than the power to rule them."*
15. The guiding principles of leadership and integrity are listed as selection based on personal integrity, competence and suitability, objectivity and impartiality in decision making, selfless service based solely on the public interest, accountability and discipline and commitment in service to the people.

#### **Article 77 of the Constitution (Restriction on activities of State officers)**

16. Article 77 of the Constitution provides that a full-time State officer shall not participate in any other gainful employment and that any appointed State officer shall not hold office in a political party.

#### **Article 78 of the Constitution on citizenship and leadership**

17. Article 78 of the Constitution states that a person is not eligible for election or appointment to a State office unless the person is a citizen of Kenya. It also provides that a State officer or a member of the defence forces shall not hold dual citizenship.

#### **Article 118 of the Constitution on public access and participation**

18. Article 118 of the Constitution provides that *Parliament shall:*
- i) *conduct its business in an open manner, and its sittings and those of its committees shall be in public; and*
  - ii) *facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its committees.*



## 2.2 Notification of Nominations

19. Pursuant to Article 155 (3) (a) (b) of the Constitution and Section 11 as read together with sections 5 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap.7f), His Excellency the President, through a letter by the Head of the Public Service Reference No. EOP/CAB.26/4A VOL.VI/ (13) dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025, forwarded to the Speaker of the National Assembly a notification of presidential action on nomination for appointment to the position of Principal Secretary. (*Annexure 1*)

## 2.3 Notification to the House and Referral to the Committee

11. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 42(2), on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025**, the Speaker of the National Assembly transmitted the Message from H.E. the President to the Members and referred the nominee's name together with her curriculum vitae to the Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Co-operatives for Approval Hearing (Vetting) and reporting to the House on or before **22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**. (*Annexure 2*)

## 2.4 Notification to the Public

14. Article 118 of the Constitution provides that Parliament shall facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative business and other business of Parliament and its Committees. Further, Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011 provides that the Clerk shall notify the public of the time and place for holding approval hearings at least seven days prior to the hearings.
15. Further, Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011 provides that *"any person may, prior to the approval hearings and by written statement on oath, provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of a candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated"*.
16. In fulfilment of the provisions of Article 118(1) (b) and 124 (4) (c) of the Constitution, Section 6(4) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act and Standing Order 45(3), the Clerk of the National Assembly on **27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025** placed an advert (*Annexure 3*), in the print media notifying the public on the date, time and place of the Approval Hearing of the nominee.
17. In compliance with Section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, the Clerk invited the public to submit memoranda by way of written statements on oath (affidavits) on the suitability or otherwise of the nominee (*Annexure 3*). The Memoranda were to be received by **3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 by 5.00 pm**. By close of the deadline, the Committee had not received any memoranda contesting the suitability of the nominee.

## 2.5 Notification to the Nominees

18. Further, on **27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025** the Clerk wrote to the nominee notifying her of the date, time and place of the Approval Hearing which was scheduled to be conducted on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**, in the Committee Room 7, First Floor, Main Parliament Buildings starting at **8.30am**. (*Annexure 4*)



## 2.6 Clearance and Compliance Requirements

19. Section 6(7) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act provides that an Approval Hearing shall focus on a candidate's academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background.
20. To fulfill the requirement on personal integrity, the Clerk on **27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025** wrote to the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, the Higher Education Loans Board, the Registrar of Political Parties, Director of Public Prosecution and Commission for University Education to ascertain the nominee's integrity and good standing with the said government institutions. (*Annexure 5*)
21. On ethics and integrity, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) through a letter Ref. EACC.7/10/5 VOL XXXI (63) dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 (*Annexure 6*) stated that it had not undertaken any investigations or recommended prosecution against of the nominee.
22. At the time of the approval hearing the KRA had not responded. However the nominee had submitted the relevant clearance from the agency. (*Annexure 6*)
23. The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) through a letter Ref.PCC-Y5SNG7R6J dated 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 (*Annexure 6*) stated that the nominee had no previous criminal records.
24. The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) through a letter Ref. HELB/RR/112009/V/378 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025 (*Annexure 6*), stated that the nominee was compliant having cleared her higher education loans.
25. On party affiliation, pursuant to Article 77(2) of the Constitution, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), through a letter Ref. No. RPP/ORG/34 VOL. VIII (70) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 (*Annexure 6*) indicated that the nominee was not an official of any fully registered political party.

## 2.7 Issues for Consideration during the Approval Hearings

26. In conducting the approval hearings, the Committee was guided by Section 6(7) and (8) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011 which provides that:
  - (7) *An approval hearing shall focus on a candidate's academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background.*
  - (8) *The criteria specified in the Schedule shall be used by a Committee during an approval hearing for the purposes of vetting a candidate.*
27. Additionally, Section 7 of the Act provides that the issues for consideration by the relevant House of Parliament in relation to any nomination shall be:
  - (a) *the procedure used to arrive at the nominee;*
  - (b) *any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and*
  - (c) *the suitability of the nominee for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the nominee's abilities, experience and qualities meet the needs of the body to which nomination is being made.*

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3.0 APPROVAL HEARINGS

38. The Committee conducted the approval hearing on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

39. The Committee noted the following:

- (i) **THAT**, the nominees had not notified the Clerk of the National Assembly of her withdrawal from the approval process as outlined under section 6(10) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approvals) Act, 2011.
- (ii) **THAT**, the Committee examined the nominees' curriculum vitae against the criteria set out in Section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, 2011. (*Annexure 7*)
  - (a) Academic qualifications;
  - (b) Employment record;
  - (c) Professional affiliations;
  - (d) Potential conflict of interest;
  - (e) Knowledge of the relevant subject;
  - (f) Overall suitability for the position;
  - (g) Integrity;
  - (h) Vision and leadership; and
  - (i) Expectations and key priorities.

44. The nominee appeared before the Committee on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The proceedings of her appearances are recorded hereunder:

### 3.1 MS.REGINA AKOTH OMBAM, NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR STATE DEPARTMENT FOR TRADE

45. **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** nominee for appointment as Principal Secretary for State Department for Trade appeared before the Committee on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and was orally interviewed under oath pursuant to Article 155 (3) (a) of the Constitution, the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval Act, Cap 7F and Standing Orders of the National Assembly. The Committee noted the following:

#### *Citizenship, Date and Place of Birth*

45. The nominee is a Kenyan Citizen of ID Number 9089480 and was born in Nairobi in 1968.

#### *Academic and Professional Qualifications*

46. The nominee holds a Master's of Arts in Public Administration from Columbia University (2002); Masters of Arts in Economics University of Nairobi, Kenya (1994); Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology University of Nairobi, Kenya (1991); The Kenyan Certificate for Secondary Education from Ngara Girls; and The Kenya Certificate for Primary Education from Lady of Mercy Shauri Moyo.

#### *Work and Professional Experience*

47. Ms. Regina has worked in the private sector for most of her career life with some working experience in the public sector in the following capacities:

- i. In November 2022 to date, she served as East Africa Community Health Financing Regional Expert, with the role of supporting the EAC Secretariat Health Department to expand a program of health financing reform in the East Africa

- Region and establish the health financing Hub within the EAC secretariat while strengthening Partner States implementation of the Africa Leaders Meeting (ALM) Health Financing Commitments Declarations.
- ii. In October 2022, she was the health Systems Strengthening Lead, Kenya Devolution Program (KDP), Options Consultancy Ltd where she developed and oversaw the implementation of Options strategy for KDP.
  - iii. From 2021 to 2022, she served as health Financing (Council of Governors /Kenya) Technical Advisor/Expert- Kenya with the Strengthening the capacity of the COG Health Committee in its critical role of ensuring sustainability of health financing by looking into county health planning and programming, funding sources, their reliability and how this influences achievement of financial risk protection goals.
  - iv. From 2020 to 2021, she was the Country Director (Health Policy Plus (HP+) Kenya/EAC) with the role of technical and administrative management of the HP+ project in Kenya and the senior in-country project representative with the overall responsibility for supervising project staff and managing relations and finances with partners and subcontractors both international and local and achieve the set results.
  - v. From 2017 to 2021, the nominee served as Technical Review Panel, Vice-Chair (The Global Fund, Switzerland, TRP) As part of the Technical Review Panel of the Global Fund since 2018, where she provided leadership in review of Global Fund Funding Requests for various countries. More specifically during the COVID-19 period, the TRP supported the Global Fund disburse a total of USD 11.34 bn in one year during COVID-19 pandemic globally.
  - vi. From 2013 to 2020, served as Deputy Director (National AIDS Control Council, Kenya) with the role of Development and execution of Kenya's strategy for sustainable financing for HIV and health, including provision of financial advice on high impact HIV, TB, Malaria, RSSH, Reproductive Health programmes and the COVID-19 Rapid response Emergency Mechanism for Kenya.
  - vii. From 2006 to 2013, she was the Head, Policy & Strategy, (National AIDS Control Council, Kenya) where she Developed the first Costed Kenya National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (2009-2013), HIV Financing strategies, Resource Tracking and Expenditure Reviews, Prevention Revolution Roadmap and undertook and extensive review of the previous Strategic Plan for HIV.
  - viii. From 2005 to 2006, she served as Policy Analyst, (Anti-Corruption Commission, Kenya) where she was Charged with the responsibility of reviewing all key policies in Government Institutions in the bid to seal major corruption loopholes in the public sector as well as provide advisory to the accounting officers of the various government institutions on possible areas of corruption loopholes in their institutions.
  - ix. From 1995 to 2005, she served as Senior Economist, (Ministry of Roads and Public Works, Kenya) and Charged with the responsibility of preparing the five-year Road Sector Strategy and Implementation Plan.
  - x. Developed Road Sector Economic Evaluation Reports for various road projects that looked at feasibility and road design studies.

#### ***Professional Associations & Affiliations***

48. The Nominee did not state if she's a member of any organization.



### ***Honors and Awards***

49. The nominee has not been awarded any honours.

### ***Clearance Requirements***

50. The Committee confirmed that the nominee had been cleared by KRA, ORPP, DCI, EACC and HELB, having obtained clearance certificates to that effect.

### ***Pro-Bono/Charity Work/Donation to Charity***

51. The Nominee did not state if she involves herself in community service in her church, women's group, and mentorship for groups.

### ***Published Writing***

52. The nominee has published the following:
- i. June 2011: The Lancet: Towards an Improved Investment Approach for an Effective Response to HIV/AIDS.
  - ii. January 2012: Conference Paper: Sustainability of Programmatic, Financial and Human Resources of HIV Program: Lessons learned from HIV/AIDS Analysis in 4 countries.
  - iii. April 2013: Journal of Health Policy and Planning: lessons learned from stakeholder driven sustainability analysis of six national HIV programs.
  - iv. December 2013: Global HIV Economics Reference Group Publications, contributed to: Guiding Principles for Partnership and Compact Development Shared Responsibility for financing the Global HIV Response.
  - v. June 2014: Integration of HIV financing into Health Financing Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.
  - vi. November 2014: Global HIV Economics Reference Group Publications, contributed to Zambia Costing and Efficiency Brief Inventory data, guidance and range of use of HIV costing and Technical Efficiency Analysis, Mapping of on-going Costing and Efficiency Studies, Costing for HIV interventions: What are the vital gaps?
  - vii. March 2016: CDG Publications: Aligning incentives, accelerating Impact: next Generation financing Models for Global Health.
  - viii. November 2017: Journal of International AIDS Society: HIV Prevention where it is needed most: Comparison of Strategies for the Geographical Allocation of Intervention.
  - ix. February 2018: Journal of International AIDS Society: Frontloading HIV Financing maximizes the achievable impact of HIV Prevention.

### ***Sources of Income and Net-worth***

53. The nominee's income during the calendar year preceding her nomination consists of salary, allowances, dividends and interest income. Her net worth is Ksh66 Million.

### ***Political Activities and Affiliations***

51. The nominee stated that she is not an official of any Political Party.

### ***Potential Conflict of Interest***

53. The nominee declared that she does not have any persons or matter that would present a potential conflict of interest. The nominee submitted that she would resolve any potential conflict of interest as per the legal and policy frameworks.

54. She stated that she had no engagement or association that will cause any conflict of interest and that she would recuse herself in case of any conflict of interest. She further stated that she will not be deeply involved in the affairs of the organizations where she served before or advance their interest that conflict with her current assignment. Similarly, she stated that if allowed to serve, she would resign from her current engagement and solely focus on serving the public. Additionally, she said that she has never been dismissed for any conflict between personal interest and public or official duties.
55. **On her integrity**, she has never been charged or convicted in any court of law, never been mentioned in any investigative Parliamentary report, commission of inquiry, or integrity-related report or investigation.
56. **On Values and Principles of Public Service**, she stated that that while discharging her duties and responsibilities in different capacities, she has always adhered to the Values and Principles Public Service as per the Constitution. She also stated that whatever she does as a leader sets an example for her junior staff to follow. The nominee also stated that she is coming into office with a commitment to serve the people equitably. She emphasized her intention to onboard everyone in the State Department to work collaboratively toward achieving economic development. She also affirmed that she would uphold and promote professionalism in all aspects of her work.
57. **On Budgetary and Economic Matters**, she stated that she intends to be a proper custodian of public resources and will administer funds in a way that is transparent, verifiable and in a way that brings value for money. She will ensure that the strategic plan will be reflective of their mandate on trade, and it will be aligned to the medium-term expenditure framework. She also stated that she will bring on board employees to be part of this mission and will consult within the constitutional framework. The nominee stated that she would actively engage with Parliament whenever invited to appear before the Committee.
58. **On aligning Kenya's Vision 2030, MTP IV and the BETA**, the nominee stated that BETA Plan and MTP IV seeks to transform Kenya into a high-income country and improve the livelihoods of its citizens by prioritizing key sectors such as agriculture, MSMEs, technology, health, and digital transformation. She further highlighted that Vision 2030 which is built on three pillars of economic, social, and political aligns closely with the BETA Plan and MTP IV, with no divergence in their overall agenda.
59. **On Buy Kenya, Build Kenya, and Made in Kenya Initiative**, the nominee stated that in enhancing market access for our local products, she will prioritize promoting them under the 'Made in Kenya', brand mark, enabling consumers to easily identify and prefer authentic Kenyan goods. However, she noted that she understands that high production costs and limited financing options hinder our competitiveness. Many producers face challenges in crafting proposals for bank financing, which is crucial for market entry. Upon assuming office, she will expedite the integration of the 'Made in Kenya' trademark into our products, facilitating smoother business operations.
60. **On Leveraging Health Sector Experience to Drive Trade**, she stated that her expertise in the health sector will be valuable in the trade sector, particularly in stakeholder engagement and management. She emphasized that this experience is a key

resource she brings to the table, especially in developing proposals for financing. An area she believes will help revamp the trade sector.

61. **On Small Scale Traders**, she stated that a significant number of Kenyans operate within the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector and emphasized that much needs to be done to enhance their competitiveness. She stated that she would prioritize market intelligence to inform traders about market requirements, needs, and demand trends. Additionally, she committed to building traders' capacity in demand creation and ensuring market access by fostering an enabling business environment. She also highlighted the importance of training traders in proposal writing to strengthen their ability to secure funding from banks and compete effectively both locally and internationally.
62. **On Protection of Local Industry**, she stated that she will work collaboratively with the State Department for Industries to enhance the textile value chain and ensure high levels of operational efficiency, which would in turn reduce manufacturing costs and make our products competitive both locally and internationally.
63. **On Trade Wars, Investment and Tariffs Regarding the recent decision by President Donald Trump to slap American imports from Kenya with a 10% tariff**, the nominee acknowledged that the country may need to explore alternative markets, as the U.S. market has become too expensive. She committed to working with her team to ensure that trade-related remedies align with WTO requirements and work to safeguard the country from potential dumping issues.
64. The nominee emphasized that the increasing number of trading blocs and regional integration worldwide fosters synergy among countries. She highlighted that this is a matter she will take seriously to minimize trade conflicts. Additionally, she committed to closely collaborate with agencies focused on trade remedies to ensure strict adherence to anti-dumping policies.
65. Regarding Sudan's ban on the importation of Kenyan tea by the government of Sudan, the nominee stated that she will address the issue once in office and bring it up for consideration under the Trade Remedies Act. She stated that to address the issue, the State Department will also collaborate with the H.E. President to pursue a political dialogue approach, aiming to encourage Sudan to reconsider importing our products. She also emphasized the importance of exploring alternative markets, such as Japan, which is actively seeking Kenyan tea.
66. **On the impact of miraa smuggling on Kenya's revenue**, she observed that that Kenya was a leading exporter of miraa to Somalia. However, bans in countries like the UK and others in Europe have significantly impacted farmers' production volumes. To address this, the nominee expressed her commitment to advocating for political dialogue to establish export quotas to Somalia and tackle logistical restrictions, particularly concerning flights permitted to operate in Somalia.
67. **On Trade Treaties and Agreements**, she noted that trade agreements often come with specific conditions. She committed to engaging manufacturers on required standards and sensitizing traders accordingly. She emphasized the importance of meeting international



standards to enhance the competitiveness of Kenyan products and to open up access to global markets. The nominee emphasized her commitment to ensuring that trade agreements fully comply with East African Community (EAC) regulations, eliminating any contradictions. She aims to address conditionalities that may not align with our established standards.

68. **On boosting Kenyan Product Visibility at Global Expos**, the nominee stated that she will collaborate with state agencies such as the Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (KEPROBA) to identify gaps and enhance the visibility of Kenyan products at upcoming expos. KEPROBA plays a pivotal role in promoting Kenyan exports and establishing a strong national brand identity. By working together, she aims to effectively showcase our products on international platforms.
69. **On Parliamentary Oversight**, she stated that she appreciates the role of Parliament and especially committees in exercising oversight. She submitted that she will work collaboratively with Parliament by having close consultations with members.
70. **On Trade Imbalance with EAC Partners**, she highlighted on concerns regarding trust in our products, particularly related to weights and measures. If appointed, she intends to focus on the Department of Weights and Measures, emphasizing its surveillance functions to ensure consumers receive fair value in transactions. The nominee also committed to collaborating with county governments to effectively address the matter.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

71. The Committee observations were guided by Articles 118, 124, 132 and 155 of the Constitution, section 47 of the Public Service Commission Act and section 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act Cap 7F and Standing Order 45 of the National Assembly in terms of issues procedure and issues for consideration as follows:

- (a) the procedure used to arrive at the nominee;
- (b) any constitutional or statutory requirements relating to the office in question; and
- (c) suitability of the nominee for the appointment proposed having regard to whether the nominees' abilities, experience, and qualities meet the needs of the body to which the nomination is made.

72. The Committee having considered the nominee's filled questionnaire (*Annexure 8*) pursuant to section 6(8) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, her curriculum vitae and having heard her oral submission during the approval hearing, made the following observations on her suitability for appointment as Principal Secretary State Department for Trade-

- 1) **THAT** in accordance with Article 78(1) and (2) of the Constitution, the nominee is eligible for appointment as a state officer since she is a Kenyan citizen and does not hold dual citizenship;
- 2) **THAT** the nominee possesses relevant experience and in compliance with the provisions of section 47(2)(ii) of the Public Service Commission Act, she holds a Master degree of Public Administration from Columbia University, a Master of Arts Degree in Economics from the University of Nairobi and a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Anthropology from University of Nairobi;
- 3) **THAT** she has extensive work experience having started as a tutorial fellow, Economics Department in the University of Nairobi, Senior economist at the Ministry of Roads and Public Works, a Policy Analyst at the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission, Head, Strategy and Policy at the National AIDS Control Council, Deputy Director at National AIDS Control Council, Country Director, HP+ Kenya, Health Systems Strengthening Lead at Options Consultancy Limited and a Regional Facilitator on Health Financing Dialogues at the East Africa Community and has the requisite knowledge and managerial skills to head a State Department;
- 4) **THAT** the nominee satisfies the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Constitution on leadership and integrity having obtained clearances from the following statutory bodies: DCI, EACC, HELB, KRA, and ORPP;
- 5) **THAT** the nominee has never been charged in a court of law or adversely mentioned in an investigatory report of Parliament or any Commission of Inquiry in the past three years;
- 6) **THAT** as stipulated in Article 75(1) of the Constitution, she has no potential conflict of interest;
- 7) **THAT** the nominee satisfies the requirements of Article 77(1) of the Constitution in that she does not intend to participate in any other gainful employment;



- 8) **THAT** the nominee does not hold office in any political party hence satisfies the provision of Article 77(2) of the Constitution;
- 9) **THAT** the nominee has never been dismissed from office under Article 75 of the Constitution for contravention of the provisions of Articles 75(1) (conflict of interest), 76(financial probity), 77(restriction of State Officers) and 78(2) (dual citizenship) of the Constitution;
- 10) **THAT** the nominee demonstrated knowledge of topical, administrative and technical issues touching on government and the specific sector she has been nominated and has the requisite abilities, academic qualifications and professional experiences to serve as Principal Secretary in the State Department for Trade, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry.
- 11) Pursuant to sections 6(7), 6(8) and 7 of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act, the Committee therefore observed that-

**Ms Regina Akoth Ombam, demonstrated** knowledge of topical, administrative and technical issues touching on the State Department to which she had been nominated and has the requisite abilities, academic qualifications and professional experience to be approved for appointment as Principal Secretary for Trade, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 COMMITTEE FINDINGS

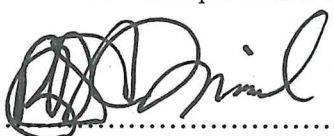
73. The Committee, having considered the nominees' academic credentials and professional qualifications, work and professional experience, personal integrity, as well as her performance during the approval hearing, made the following general findings:

- 1) The nominee is a Kenyan citizen and does not hold dual citizenship in conformity with Article 78 of the Constitution regarding her eligibility for appointment to a State Office.
- 2) The nominee has the requisite academic and professional qualifications recognized in Kenya.
- 3) According to the records and information availed to the Committee by the nominee and the various clearing agencies, the nominee meets the requirements of chapter six of the Constitution on leadership and integrity.
- 4) In accordance with Article 77(2) of the Constitution and the Schedule of the Public Appointment (Parliamentary Approval) Cap 7F, the nominee does not hold office in any political party.
- 5) The nominee is compliant with Articles 75 and 76 of the Constitution on the conduct and financial probity of State officers. She indicated the nonexistence of potential conflict of interest and committed to declare any should it arise.
- 6) The Committee did not receive any written statement on oath contesting suitability of the nominee as required under section 6(9) of the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap.7F)
- 7) The Committee exercised due diligence and contacted vetting bodies for confidential information but did not receive any adverse report on the nominee.
- 8) The nominee demonstrated knowledge of topical, administrative and technical issues touching on government and the specific sector she has been nominated.
- 9) The nomination of **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** was in compliance with the Constitution and the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act (Cap.7F).
- 10) The nominee is suitable for appointment as Principal Secretary for the State Department for Trade.

## CHAPTER SIX

### 6.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

74. Having conducted the approval hearings pursuant to Articles 118(1); 124 (4), 132 (2) (d) and 155 (3) (b) of the Constitution; the Public Appointments (Parliamentary Approval) Act; Cap.7F, the Public Service Commission Act and Standing Order 216 (5) (f), the Committee recommends that the House **approves** the appointment of **Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam** as Principal Secretary in the State Department for Trade.

SIGNED:  DATE: 09/04/2025

HON. BENARD MASAKA SHINALI, MP  
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
COOPERATIVES



